



# THE LOMA VERDE KIDS' NEWS

## CA State Assemblyman Huffman Visits Loma Verde

by Jacob Edmonds and Jillian Raiger, 4th Graders



On Wednesday, October 29, 2008, California Assembly Member Jared Huffman visited Loma Verde. Huffman talked to the 4th and 5th graders, and the students asked him questions.

Here are some of the things we learned:

Jared Huffman is the Assemblyman for California's 6th Assembly district, which

includes all of Marin and Southern Sonoma counties. In August of 2008, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass named Huffman to chair the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee.

Huffman faced two opponents in the November 2008 general election: Republican Paul Lavery and Libertarian Timothy Hannan. After the voting was done, Huffman was reelected.

We got the feeling Huffman didn't like Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger very much. One kid asked if he ever disagrees with Schwarzenegger, and Huffman said he almost always disagrees with the Governor. He also said when he sees Governor Schwarzenegger in person, Schwarzenegger wears too much makeup.

Huffman graduated cum laude ("with honors") from Boston College Law School. Before that, he graduated magna cum laude ("with high

honors") from the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he was a three-time NCAA All-American athlete and a member of the 1987 World Champion USA Volleyball Team.

The 4th graders hope to see Huffman again when they visit Sacramento next week!

## Meet the Real Mr. Noonan

by Tony Diaz and Oscar Vaquerano, 4th Graders

Have you ever wondered about the real Mr. Noonan? Now is the time to find out! First of all, he grew in San Diego which he says has wonderful weather like Marin County. He moved up here because he wanted to go to college at Sonoma State University.

"College was such an amazing experience," said Mr. Noonan in an email to the LVKN staff. "If I had the opportunity, I would do it all again."

Mr. Noonan likes to spend a lot of time surfing and hanging out with his friends. He has coached soccer and given surfing lessons in the past. His birthday is coming up on March 25. Besides his happy students, Mr. Noonan doesn't have any kids yet. "Maybe someday," he said.

## Staff for this Issue

Shane Caldwell, Brian Cetina Perez, Marisa Dabanian, Tony Diaz, Jenna Dorian, Jacob Edmonds, Andrea Garcia, Thea Gonzalez, Yesenia Lopez, Ariella Pellereti, Alaina Pritchard, Jillian Raiger, Claudia Seader, Xavi Servin-Diaz, Luis Soriano, Oscar Vaquerano, Kaitlyn Walters, Angel Zamora, and Miss Golden

### Next staff meeting:

Wednesday, February 10 at lunch in Room 44. New 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade reporters are welcome to join us!!

## It's a Girl!!

by Andrea Garcia and  
Jillian Raiger, 4th Graders

Good News! Mrs. Shinzato had her baby! Ava Grace Shinzato was born on January 2, 2009, at 3:05 in the morning.

Ava is a big and healthy baby. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 21 inches long. She is now 9 pounds, 4 ounces and 22 inches long, and still growing!

Ava has black hair and black eyes which she likes to use to look at people and the ceiling. She is a quiet baby, but she cries a lot because she wants to be held. Mrs.



*Ava Grace Shinzato loves bathtime with Daddy!*

and Mr. Shinzato take turns holding her at night.

Mrs. Shinzato does not get much sleep these days because Ava keeps her up at night. "Because she is a baby and requires a high

amount of nutrition, she eats about every hour and a half," said Mrs. Shinzato.

Mrs. Shinzato says that Ava will visit the school "when the time is right." She wants Ava to meet all the teachers and students, but she doesn't want her to catch a cold or the flu.

Mrs. Shinzato thinks she might be back at Loma Verde in March. "It will be hard to leave Ava while I work," she said, "but hopefully someone very loving will take care of her! I really miss the staff and students of Loma Verde and hope that everyone is off to a great New Year!"

## Gardeners, Get Ready

by Ariella Pellereti and Alaina Prtichard, 5th graders

Did you know that there's going to be a garden at Loma Verde? You may have seen people putting in or helping put in a lot of posts around a big area. That is our garden. It is located behind the library, and it's going to be great! Parents, teachers, and students are spending their time to build this garden.

We interviewed a few teachers and parents about the garden and found the answers to several questions.

Mrs. Tjernell told us the reason for building the school garden was "so kids can learn how plants grow."

We learned from Loma Verde parents Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard that the garden will contain "various types of plants, but mostly seeds and science projects."

Mrs. Kraft explained why the garden is so big: "[The Garden Committee] is intending to plant a lot of plants and have compost bins, stumps for sitting, and raised beds for more seeds and plants."

Now that the garden is getting built and getting plants and compost bins, everyone is getting really excited.

Ms. Horenstein said the compost bins are made out of redwood and will eventually be placed on both blacktops. "The compost bins are going to



*The new fenced-off garden area behind the library has lots of room for the students to grow and study plants!*

be very helpful to our community," she explained. "We built compost bins because it is really important to help the school and not have a lot of trash to go to the garbage cans. There will be worms inside the compost bins, so they will eat [leftover fruits and vegetables] and make it into fertilizer."

Everyone we talked to said they can't wait for the garden to be ready for planting. We hope that day comes soon!



## More Facts About Ms. Smith

by Jenna Dorian and  
Andrea Garcia, 4th graders

Have you ever wanted to know more about Ms. Smith? After conducting an interview with our super principal, the Loma Verde Kids News found out some interesting facts about her.

We found out that Ms. Smith went to Sonoma State University to get her bachelor's degree. Then she went to Golden Gate University to obtain her master's degree in finance. Later, she went to San Francisco State and earned her master's in educational leadership. With all that education, she must be well qualified for her job!

Before she came to Loma Verde, Ms. Smith was a Math Coordinator in San Rafael. No wonder she is so smart in math! If she wasn't a principal right now, she said she might like to teach Kindergarten.

Ms. Smith has three sons, and we saw two of them at our last school assembly. The youngest one is sixteen, the middle one is twenty, and the oldest is twenty-two.

Ms. Smith loves spicy salsa and Thai food. She is a great athlete and rides her bike to school many days out of each week. When she was in high school, she ran on the track and field team.

The more we find out about her, the more we love our amazing principal! We are so lucky to have Ms. Smith here at Loma Verde!

## A Week at Walker Creek Ranch is an Excellent Experience for 5th Graders

by Thea Gonzales, Claudia Seader, and Angel Zamora, 5th graders

Do you know what it's like at Walker Creek Ranch with about fifty 5th graders from Loma Verde, combined with about 105 5th graders from two other schools for a week of scientific adventures? It's pretty crazy!

Walker Creek Ranch, located in Petaluma, is a place where fifth graders go each year to learn about science, nature and animal habitats. Students and their teachers stay there for four nights and five days. This year, the fifth graders went from November 3-7, 2008.

The 5th graders had three different teachers while they were at Walker Creek: our cabin leaders, our regular teachers, and our naturalists. The teachers were all very nice and taught us many things. The cabin leaders were in charge of taking care of us and they also played games with us. The naturalists took us on hikes, and our regular teachers, Mrs. Kraft and Ms. Marcus, had us talk about what we had done during each day.

We did many different activities while we were at Walker Creek. Going on hikes was fun because we got to see different places. We saw different animals too, like skunks, deer, and birds. A fox even went into one of the cabins!

For many 5th graders, the Barn Boogie was the favorite activity. We spent about an hour boogying together. We did all kinds of dances like Freeze Dance, Free Dance, and "Miss



Kelsey and Megan are ready for a hike.

Sally," which is a dance that you do with another group of people. Kirie Schilling in Ms. Marcus' class said, "[The Barn Boogie] was really fun. I really liked the music and learning the dance moves."

The food was very good while we were there - "really, really delicious," according to Thalia Perez in Mrs. Kraft's class.

"It wasn't the food I usually eat, but I really liked it, especially the breakfasts," said Alan Friedman in Mrs. Kraft's class. We ate spaghetti, pizza, cereal, oatmeal, pancakes, and hot dogs. After we were done eating each meal, we had to clean up after ourselves. Some of the groups had to serve the food or do "Kitchen Duty."

If you're in 4th grade or below, you should start saving money now, because even though it's expensive, it's worth every penny! Walker Creek is a great memory that will last forever in your mind and mostly in your heart!



Alan at the top!